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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

) Group Art Unit: 2633
) Examiner: Bello, Agustin
) <u>INFORMATION</u>) <u>DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u>
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. BOX 4150, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 ON SHERIDAN ROSS P.C. BY: SHERIDAN ROSS P.C. BY: SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.
PTO-1449 are being called to the attention of the
<u>C</u>
d/or foreign references are enclosed herewith.
and/or patent applications are enclosed herewith.
patent application publications are not enclosed in
ered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371 after atents and U.S. patent application publications.
not enclosed, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(d),
d to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in prior
, which is relied upon for an earlier
ne pertinence of the foreign-language references are
sh abstracts and in the figures, although applicants
translation.

☐ Examiner's attention is	drawn to the following co-pending applications, copi	es of
which have been or are being submitted	d:	
Serial No.	filed	

Submission of the above information is not intended as an admission that any item is citable under the statutes or rules to support a rejection, that any item disclosed represents analogous art, or that those skilled in the art would refer to or recognize the pertinence of any reference without the benefit of hindsight, nor should an inference be drawn as to the pertinence of the references based on the order in which they are presented. Submission of this statement should not be taken as an indication that a search has been conducted, or that no better art exists.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and the references made of record therein.

FEES

	37 CFR 1.97(b): No fee is believed due in connection with this submission, because the information disclosure statement submitted herewith is satisfies one of the following conditions ("X" indicates satisfaction):				
	Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d), or				
	Within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of an international application as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 or				
	☐ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or				
	Before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.				
	Although no fee is believed due, if any fee is deemed due in connection with this submission, please charge such fee to Deposit Account 19-1970.				
⊠	37 CFR 1.97(c): The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed after all the above conditions (37 CFR 1.97(b)), but before the mailing date of one of the following conditions: (1) a final action under 37 CFR 1.113 or (2) a notice of allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or (3) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. This Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by:				
	A Certification (below) as specified by 37 CFR 1.97(e). Although no fee is believed due, if any fee is deemed due in connection with this submission, please charge such fee to Deposit Account 19-1970. OR				
	Please charge Deposit Account 19-1970 in the amount of \$180.00 for the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement. Please credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account 19-1970.				
	37 CFR 1.97(d): This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e). ☐ This information Disclosure Statement includes a Certification (below) as specified by 37 CFR 1.97(e) AND				
	Applicants hereby requests consideration of the reference(s) disclosed herein. Please charge Deposit Account 19-1970 in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 CFR 1.17(p). Please credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account 19-1970. Election to pay the fee should not be taken as an indication that applicant(s) cannot execute a certification.				

Certification (37 CFR 1.97(e)) (Applicable only if checked)

Market The undersigned certifies the	at:
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- ☐ Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).
 - ☐ A copy of the communication from the foreign patent office is enclosed.

OR

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2).

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

of

Complete if Known				
Application Number	10/053,679			
Filing Date	January 21, 2002			
First Named Inventor	Smith			
Art Unit	2633			
Examiner Name	Bello, Agustin			
Attorney Docket Number	1604-381			

	U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-kind Code ^{2 (If known)}	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee of Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
	1	US-5,150,171	09/22/1992	Hill et al.			
	2	US-5,303,024	04/12/1994	Thierman			
	3	US-6,496,252	12/17/2002	Whiteley			
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	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Country (ign Patent Document Number¹; Kind Code⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Le
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OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1				

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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.